Deputy President.—You may move it, Mr. Padmanabha Menon.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I shall move for an amendment that the latter portion beginning from 'or' and the word 'either' after 'and' may be omitted. It will read like this:—

"This Council respectfully recommends to the Government that, in view of the necessity to develop the progress of self-government in the State, the Village Panchayats be removed from the supervision of the Superintendent of Agriculture and a separate officer be appointed for the supervision of the Panchayats".

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I accept the amendment.

Dpeuty President.—I shall put the amendment first.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The amendment has been accepted by the mover.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—The resolution as amended may be put to votes.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—We will carry the resolution as amended.

Mr. A. B. Salem,—The Government is not prepared to accept ?

Deputy President.—They cannot say now.

(*The amended resolution was put to the vote and was passed.*)

5. *Nominations to Panchayats by a Standing Committee.*

Deputy President.—The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I don't want to move it.

Hence the following resolution was considered to be withdrawn:—

"*This Council recommends to the Government that the right of nominating members to the Panchayats be hereafter exercised by a Standing Committee consisting of three non-officials to be elected by this Council, the Superintendent of Panchayats and another senior official and non-official to be elected by Government*".

(6) *Location of Liquor Shops.*

Deputy President —The next resolution is in the name of Mr. K. T. Mathew.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move:—"This Council recommends to the Government that no liquor shops be located within 2 furlongs of a market, school, place of public worship, hospital, factory, public office and similar places of public resort". This resolution by itself should recommend the purpose

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contained in it to the non-official Members as well as to the Government Members, for the Government have declared in this House not once or twice, but very often, that their policy is one of marching towards prohibition, and the non-officials have expressed the opinion unmistakably that they stand for temperance, if not for prohibition. Though we are not, as a result of the present Excise policy, marching towards prohibition, let it not be our policy to go backward and to put temptation in the way of the people and to teach boys, and young men and girls to go to liquor shops. That is a matter which we should not accept, and that is a policy to which the elected Members are opposed.

I would welcome the amendment of Mr. Kunjunni Raja, but thinking that my resolution would be more acceptable to the Government, I leave it to the House to decide whether the amendment or the resolution as it stands should be accepted. My resolution does not demand too much. It contains a recommendation almost similar to the one which has been made by many committees appointed by the British Government, and also by the Government of Travancore. So, there need not be any serious discussion about it. The Government should welcome such a resolution and accept it.

Deputy President.—We are following Travancore and British India.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—With these few remarks, I leave this resolution to the consideration and acceptance of this House. If more I have to say, I shall speak afterwards.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I second this resolution. I think that nothing need be said to make the Government get on their legs and accept this resolution, except that it be that they want to make revenue by catering to the vices of the people. This is a resolution which will come here not as a steady annual, but like Sisyphus always it will come. Unless and until Government reach the goal of prohibition and not raise any revenue out of this sale of liquor, it will come here every time that we sit. So that the Government must be prepared always to find out arguments to stick to their policy. In sweet words they will say we are for prohibition. Who else can say that they are not? No one can say. But in practice the revenue will be swelling. So that the Government should accept it. I am glad to hear, Sir, in this House, from the Hon'ble Member for Education, that if the Pulayas have a Night school, they don't go to the liquor shop. The only Member that could regret it is the Member for Excise and nobody else; his revenue will go down. Near a school liquor shops should not be located. I heartily support this resolution and commend it to the acceptance of this House.

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Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—There are two kinds of liquor shops, one in which liquor is sold retail and another in which it is sold in bottles. Which kind of liquor shop is meant in this resolution?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Both kinds.

Deputy President.—Do you object or support?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam says that the rule obtaining in the Madras Presidency and Travancore is the same.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I didn't say so, Sir.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I took it like that.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—You may take it for anything. The rule as stated in the resolution is in force in British India.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Neither has the Excise Commitee in Travancore reported so, nor is it in British India. But I should like to know from what authority the Hon'ble Member stated that the rule as enunciated in the resolution is in force in British India.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I did not say so. I wonder why statements which are not made by me are attributed to me to say that the rule is in force in British India. Press reporters and Government reporters are here. You may refer to them.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—What is it that you stated?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What I stated was that the Committees appointed there have made a recommendation. That is all. I did not say that this exists there—in Travancore and in British India.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I have got a word to add that that Committee neither in Madras nor in Travancore have recommended in the manner stated by the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In what other manner, please?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—This resolution, the subject-matter of which has been referred to has been dealt with by the Excise Committee of the Government.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I raise a point of order? Reports which are not placed on the table should not be referred to. No mention should be made of them. That is the ruling in the Madras Council. There decisions should not be referred, unless they are placed on the table.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I am not referring to the decisions. They have made a report, and that report is under the consideration of Government. I don't say what the report is. It does not appear that there is any hard-and-fast rule in this matter either here or in the Madras Presidency, though in

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both these places shops are not located in places which are found to be objectionable. There is, however, a rule in Bengal with reference to this matter, which is as follows:—

"In no case no *new* liquor shop shall be opened in a *bazaar* or at the *entrance* to a bazaar *near* a bathing ghat or other place of public resort, school,hospital, place of worship, factory,in the interior of a village, at the site of a road leading to a bathing ghat or other source of water supply".

As I said, '*near* a bathing ghat,' the distance is not specified there.

It appears that in Makaram 1099, a circular was issued by the Travancore Excise Commissioner upon this matter, I have got a copy of the circular from the Excise Commissioner, and it is as follows:—

"Officers in charge of Excise Divisions are informed that *wherever practicable* no arrack or toddy shop should *in future* be located within two furlongs of a market, school-house, place of public worship, hospital, factory, public office, railway lines, and similar places of public resort, and the recommendation of the Travancore Excise Committee is also to the same effect."

Mr. M. K. Raman.—So, both in British India and Travancore you have it.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—And the recommendation made by the Travancore Excise Committee is as follows:--It is on the lines of the circular issued by the Excise Commissioner. No new toddy or arrack shops—not all liquor shops—should be located within two furlongs of a market, school house, hospital, factory, place of public worship and similar places of public resort. That rule is not applicable to the existing shops. There is absolutely no objection to accept that rule.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—But not this resolution?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—It is not a question of accepting that rule.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We want to progress a little further.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnattukavu takes all liquor shops, including foreign liquor shops, and no exception is made for the existing shops. No new shops shall be located, and every opportunity would be given to make the rule applicable to this extent. There is no objection to accept this resolution.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The Excise Member has based all his agruments on the fact that, while the Government is willing to accept this resolution so far as the new shops are concerned, the Government will oppose the resolution as it stands. But so far as the arrack and toddy business is concerned,they will accept

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the resolution. But they will not accept the resolution as it stands.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I don't say I will not accept.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The Government is opposing it. You must either oppose or accept.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I cannot remove all the shops all at once. Every effort will be taken to see that the shops which are situated within two furlongs of a market, etc., are removed—not all at once.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—You are going to remove them gradually. That makes a lot of difference.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No new shops will be allowed, and the old shops will be removed gradually.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The word 'gradually' has got different meanings to that side of the House and to this side. I remember a number of resolutions have been accepted and that, when the Government is concerned, they will say "Oh! No. We are not opposing it. But we cannot accept them all on a sudden, but gradually." And I shall challenge that side of the House that not a single resolution has been given effect to, and they have always taken shelter under that word 'gradually'. I wonder what their position will be, if such a word does not exist in the dictionary of the English language.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The English language will cease to be a spoken language.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—So far as that side is concerned, they will find it very difficult to speak on any subject unless the word 'gradually' comes every now and then. I can understand persons getting up and saying 'this is a new temple, this is an old temple; this is an old church; therefore, it should not be removed'. Sanctity is conferred sometimes upon such venerable institutions. But a liquor shop and a toddy shanty do not generally come into that sanctity because of its long existence in one and the same locality.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Old wine is the best.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—People will never allow wine to remain. As soon as the supply comes, it is taken. The backing party have decided not to press the Government to abolish the alcoholic trade all at once; all reasonable proposals have been brought forward in this House to reduce the consumption of alcohol and also to remove the irksome side of drunken shops with drunken fellows standing and quarrelling with one another, as the Commissioner of Police will bear witness to an incident which took place day before yesterday. We have decided in all

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such cases that we shall force the Government, as far as possible, to move on the lines that we want them to pursue here.

On these reasons we will ask for a division, and also we will resume this subject again and again till we think we are satisfied that the Government have taken the right direction, instead of giving us vague answers under the guise of the word 'gradually'. I like an open, fair and frank opposition. When you say 'gradually' and befool us, you must be made to realise that you cannot always do the same. Therefore, we propose for a division of the House on this very question.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—What is the objection? I want information. I do not hear the Member in charge of the Department raising any objection. If it is not confidential, I may be informed. We were told only that they will not accept.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Because they are sacred things.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Since my amendment is agreeable to the mover, I formally move for the acceptance of this House, to substitute 'one mile' for 'two furlongs'.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I can have it as 'one mile'.

Mr. George Chakkyamuri.—I oppose the resolution. Not that I believe in the amendment. I believe there will be a practical difficulty for the working of this resolution, if it is accepted by the Government, and then it will be impossible for them to have it located in a town, because you will find in a town so many public offices, markets, school buildings and similar places of public resort.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Let them go outside.

Mr. George Chakkyamuri.—For instance, there is a public school. The shop is not to be located quarter of a mile to the north, east and west, and after that an Anchal Office will turn up, then a Co-operative Office, Women's College and similar institutions. It will be practically impossible for Government to locate liquor shops in the town. Similar difficulties will arise in villages. A quarter of a mile north according to the original resolution and one mile according to the amendment, there will be one Government Primary school. And then a quarter of a mile distant there will be another Panchayat office, and so on. So that it becomes practically impossible for the Government to locate liquor shops.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then it will be impossible for a drink.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—But the Government did not find that difficulty. You are enlightening the Government Member,

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—You are taking the part of the monitor.

Mr. George Chakkyamuri.—It is practically coming to abstinence. I oppose the resolution.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—If the liquor shops were located as the Hon'ble Member said, it is impossible to get a drink."

Deputy President.—The resolution runs thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that no liquor shops be located within one mile of a market, school, place of public worship, hospital, factory, public office, and similar places of public resort.

(*The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.*)

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Poll, Sir.

For.

1 Mr. C. T. Chakko
2 ,, A. Eachara Menon
3 ,, E. Ikkanda Wariar
4 ,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja
5 Srimati T. Madhavi Amma
6 Mr. K. T. Mathew
7 ,, S. F. Nunez
8 ,, N. Padmanabha Menon
9 ,, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar
10 ,, M. K. Raman
11 ,, K. Raman Menon
12 Dr. A. R. Menon
13 Mr. A. B. Salem

Against.

1 Mr. C. Achyuta Menon
2 ,, K. Achyuta Menon
3 ,, C. Barton Wright
4 ,, George Chakkyamuri
5 ,, K. Govinda Menon
6 ,, K. P. Karuppan
7 ,, S. S. Koder
8 ,, K. Krishna Pisharoti
9 Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon
10 Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai
11 Mr. I. Raman Menon
12 ,, Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur
13 ,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
14 ,, A. K. Vengu Ayyar
15 Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese

Neutral.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.

(*The resolution was put to the vote and carried.*)

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We want a poll, Sir.

For.

1 Mr. C. Achyuta Menon
2 Mr. I. E. Ambooken
3 Mr. C. T. Chakko
4 Mr. A. Eachara Menon
5 Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar
6 Mr. C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri
7 Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja
8 Srimati T. Madhavi Amma
9 Mr. K. T. Mathew
10 Mr. C. A. Ouseph
11 Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon
12 Mr. K. Raman Menon
13 Mr. M. K. Raman
14 Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar
15 Dr. A. R. Menon
16 Mr. A. B. Salem
17 Mr. A. Sankara Puduval

Against.

1 Mr. K. Achyuta Menon
2 Mr. George Chakkyamuri
3 Mr. K. Govinda Menon
4 Mr. K. P. Karuppan
5 Mr. S. S. Koder
6 Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi
7 Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon
8 Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai
9 Mr. I. Raman Menon
10 Mr. Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur
11 Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
12 Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar
13 Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese

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